

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 /068 W

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R 011011Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2124

INFO COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJECT: POLITICAL ATMOSPHERICS; KHUKRIT ILL

REF: BANGKOK 20539 (P R 291253Z SEP 75)

SUMMARY: SITUATION IN BANGKOK HAS NOT DEVELOPED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE SUBMISSION REFTEL. GEN. KRIT RETIRED ON SCHEDULE SEPT 30 AND AT FAREWELL RECEPTION STATED, IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, THAT HE WOULD RUN FOR ELECTION. PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT CAME DOWN WITH DIGESTIVE UPSET SEPT 30 BUT IS REPORTED IN SATISFACTORY CONDITION. NO FURTHER ACTION REPORTED ON THREAT BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE THAWIT TO PULL HIS PARTY OUT OF COALITION IF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DID NOT RESIGN AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE BY OCT 2 (REFTEL). END SUMMARY.

1. AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FAREWELL CEREMONIES SEPT 30 FOR RETIRING SUPREME COMMAND OFFICERS, GENERAL KRIT SIWARA, HIMSELF RETIRING COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ROYAL THAI ARMY AND ACTING SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARMED FORCES, STATED IN RESPONSE TO JOURNALIST'S

QUESTION THAT HE WOULD RUN FOR ELECTION (PRESUMABLY TO PARLIAMENT). PRAMAN ADIREKSAN, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE, JOKINGLY ADDED THAT KRIT WOULD RUN UNDER THE THAI NATION BANNER.

2. THESE STATEMENTS WERE MADE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS PUT TO KRIT ABOUT HIS ELECTION PLANS. PHOTOS ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE NEWSPAPERS SHOW BOTH MEN IN A JOVIAL, JOKING MOOD, HOLDING EACH OTHER BY THE ARM TO SHOW THAT THERE WERE NO HARD FEELINGS BETWEEN THEM, DESPITE EVENTS OF PAST FEW DAYS. LATER, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS, KRIT APPEALED FOR UNITY, WHICH HE SAID WAS ESSENTIAL TO THAILAND'S NATIONAL SURVIVAL.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS, PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT BECAME ILL AND LEFT A CABINET MEETING MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 30. KHUKRIT TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE WAS SUFFERING FROM A HEART AILMENT AND DIARRHEA. HIS DOCTOR REPORTED LAST NIGHT THAT KHUKRIT WAS RESTING SATISFACTORILY AFTER A THOROUGH PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.

4. THE BANGKOK POST REPORTS OCT 1 THAT NO MAJOR DECISIONS WERE MADE DURING THE CABINET MEETING OF SEPT 30, WHICH WAS EARLIER EXPECTED TO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN OIL PRICE CONSEQUENT ON RECENT OPEC ACTION AND CABINET RESHUFFLE DISPUTE BETWEEN THAWIT KLINPRATUM, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES, AND PRAMAN. AS NOTED IN PARA 5 OF REFTEL, THAWIT THREATENED TO PULL SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTY OUT OF COALITION IF PRAMAN DID NOT RESIGN DEFENSE PORTFOLIO BY OCT 2. IF THAWIT DOES NOTHING (AND WE THINK HE LACKS SUPPORT WITHIN HIS PARTY TO DO ANYTHING DRASTIC), HE WILL INEVITABLY LOSE SOME FACE OVER EPISODE.

5. COMMENT: KHUKRIT'S AILMENT (PARA 3 ABOVE) MAY BE NO MORE THAN TEMPORARY INDISPOSITION, WHICH WE MENTION ONLY BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN REFERRED TO IN PRESS AND SOME VERSION OF IT MAY COME TO ATTENTION OF DEPT. OUR BIO RECORDS ON KHUKRIT'S HEALTH ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPOTTY, BUT THEY INDICATE THE PRIME MINISTER SUFFERS FROM HEART DISEASE AND DIABETES.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, CABINET, MILITARY PERSONNEL, POLITICAL SITUATION, REORGANIZATIONS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO20716
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750340-0688
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751094/aaaadfqw.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BANGKOK 20539
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL ATMOSPHERICS; KHUKRIT ILL
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH, (KRIT SIWARA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006